IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Please write the claims to read as follows:

1   1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a switch for frames in a computer net-

2   work, comprising:

3   receiving a frame (the received frame) at a port of said switch, said received

4   frame containing one or more indicia of frame type designation, said one or more indicia

5   of frame type designation comprising at least a protocol type;

6   deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said

7   one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said

8   switch;

9   accessing a forwarding data base with said derived VLAN value to determine a

10   destination address; and[[,]]

11   forwarding, in response to said derived VLAN value, said received frame to an

12   output port for transmission to the destination.

1   2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, said forwarding step forwarding

2   in response to said derived VLAN value and said destination.

3   3. (Cancelled)

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1   4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said indicia of frame type designation fur-

2   ther comprises:

3   a subnet value.

1   5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said indicia of frame type designation fur-

2   ther comprises:

3   a virtual local area network established in said computer network.

1   6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said indicia of frame type designation fur-

2   ther comprises: an IP source address.

1   7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said indicia of frame type designation fur-

2   ther comprises:

3   an index value associated with a port at which said received frame was received.

1   8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   deriving a MAC address from said derived VLAN value and forwarding said re-

3   ceived frame to a port for transmission to a destination having said MAC address.

1   9. (Previously Presented) A switch to forward frames in a computer network, compris-

2   ing:

3   a port to receive a frame (the received frame), said received frame containing one

4   or more indicia of frame type designation;

5   a parsing engine to derive a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in

6 response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN inter-

7 nal to said switch;

8   a forwarding data base having said derived VLAN value as input and a destina-

9 tion address as output; and,

10   an output port to transmit said received frame, in response to said derived VLAN

11 value, for transmission to said destination address.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 9 further comprising:

2   a forwarding engine for forwarding said received frame in response to said de-

3 rived VLAN value and said destination address.

1 11. (Previously Presented) A computer readable media containing instructions for the

2 practice of operating a switch for frames in a computer network, comprising:

3   receiving a frame (the received frame) at a port of said switch, said received

4 frame containing one or more indicia of frame type designation;

5   deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said

6 one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said

7 switch;

8   accessing a forwarding data base with said derived VLAN value to determine a

9 destination address; and,

10   forwarding, in response to said derived VLAN value, said received frame to an

11 output port for transmission to the destination.

1 12. (Cancelled)

1   13. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a switch for frames in a computer net-

2   work comprising:

3   using one or more indicia of frame type designation found in a received frame to

4   derive a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value, said derived VLAN internal to

5   said switch;

6   using the derived VLAN value in making forwarding decisions.

1   14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2   controlling broadcast domains in the computer network by forwarding in response

3   to the derived VLAN value.

1   15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2   using an indicia of a receiving port in constructing the derived VLAN value.

1   16. (Previously Presented) A computer readable media containing instructions for the

2   practice of operating a switch for frames in a computer network comprising:

3   using one or more indicia of frame type designation found in the received frame

4   to derive a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value, said derived VLAN internal

5   to said switch;

6   using the derived VLAN value in making forwarding decisions.

1   17. (Cancelled)

1   18. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a switch for frames in a computer net-

2   work, comprising:

3   receiving a frame (the received frame) at a port of said switch, said received

4   frame containing one or more indicia of frame type designation;

5   deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said

6   one or more indicia of frame type designation;

7   accessing a forwarding data base with said derived VLAN value to determine a

8   destination address; and,

9   forwarding, in response to said derived VLAN value, said received frame to an

10   output port for transmission to the destination.

1   19. (Previously Presented) A switch to forward frames in a computer network, compris-

2   ing:

3   a port to receive a frame (the received frame), said received frame containing one

4   or more indicia of frame type designation;

5   a parsing engine to derive a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in

6   response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation;

7   a forwarding data base having said derived VLAN value as input and a destina-

8   tion address as output; and,

9   an output port to transmit said received frame, in response to said derived VLAN

10   value, for transmission to said destination address.

1   20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to forward frames in a computer network, com-

2   prising:

3   means for receiving a frame (the received frame) at a port of said switch, said re-

4   ceived frame containing one or more indicia of frame type designation;

5   means for deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response

6   to said one or more indicia of frame type designation;

7   means for accessing a forwarding data base with said derived VLAN value to de-

8   termine a destination address; and,

9   means for forwarding, in response to said derived VLAN value, said received

10   frame to an output port for transmission to the destination.

1   21. (Previously Presented) A system for sending frames in a computer network, compris-

2   ing:

3   a plurality of switches to derive a virtual area network (derived VLAN) in re-

4   sponse to one or more indicia of frame type designation; and

5   a plurality of trunking ports to carry the derived VLAN across trunking links.

1   22. (Previously Presented) A method for sending frames in a computer network, compris-

2   ing:

3   deriving a virtual area network (derived VLAN) in a plurality of switches, the de-

4   rived VLAN created in response to one or more indicia of frame type designation; and

5   carrying the derived VLAN across trunking links using a plurality of trunking

6   ports.

1   23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for sending frames in a computer network, com-

2   prising:

3   means for deriving a virtual area network (derived VLAN) in a plurality of

4   switches, the derived VLAN created in response to one or more indicia of frame type des-

5   ignation; and

6   means for carrying the derived VLAN across trunking links.